

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE PREPARATION OF A FIELD BLANK SAMPLE

KEY WORDS

Native Rinse, Preservative, Field Blank

APPROVALS

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Environmental Monitoring Branch organization and personnel, such as management, senior scientist, quality assurance officer, project leader, etc., are defined and discussed in [SOP ADMN002.01](#).

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

A field blank is created for Quality Control purposes as a control sample that checks for contamination at the point of filling a sample bottle. The field blank is different than a rinse blank which checks equipment cleanliness and is described in QAQC006.00.

2.0 MATERIALS

- 2.1** Jug of distilled water
- 2.2** Plastic bag or sheets to use as ground cover
- 2.3** Bottle, same as used for regular samples, labeled according to QAQC005.00
- 2.4** Chain of Custody (COC) filled out as in ADMN006.01
- 2.5** Latex gloves

3.0 PROCEDURES

3.1 Instructions for generating Field Blanks

A Field Blank sample should be collected as close to the location where samples are collected as possible. Preferably, this should be done at nearly the same time as sampling. The Field Blank should be collected in a similar manner as the sample but without using the surface water collection equipment.

- 3.1.1** Put on new latex gloves to prevent contaminating samples.
- 3.1.2** Bring a plastic bag to use as ground cover at the sample site.
- 3.1.3** Bring the jug of distilled water and the sample bottle to where the regular sample is collected and place them on the plastic bag. Neither the jug nor the sample bottles should be in direct contact with the ground.
- 3.1.4** While wearing gloves take off the sample bottle cap.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
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- 3.1.5 Pour the distilled water into the field blank bottle, which may be held in the Styrofoam 6-pack container. Fill bottle to the top. Try not to overfill the bottle so as not to dilute any contaminants.
- 3.1.6 Cap bottle and prepare COC in the same manner as surface water samples. The bottle cap should be marked field blank (FB).
- 3.1.7 If preservatives are necessary, the Project Manager should coordinate with the lab to find out how much acid to add to distilled water.
 - 3.1.7.1 If it is determined that the preservatives are to be added after the field blank is filled, be sure to leave enough space at the top of the bottle.
 - 3.1.7.2 If it is determined that the preservatives are to be added before the Field Blank is filled, do not overfill the bottle as to not spill any preservatives.
- 3.1.8 Transport and store the field blank the same as regular samples following SOP QAQC004.01.
- 3.1.9 Fill out a Check-In sheet in accordance to QAQC003.02 by writing FB in the sample code field.